

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the dedicated nutrition professionals at Watertown Elementary School upon their valiant efforts to increase school productivity and to congratulate the school upon receiving the "Expanding Breakfast Award."

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those dedicated professionals who have given generously of their time and efforts to improve the academic and physical performance of students attending Watertown Elementary School in Wilson County, who will one day be future leaders of and contributors to society; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that eating a balanced breakfast can improve productivity, lengthen attention spans, and boost energy, and for those children in school, breakfast enhances learning, memory, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, because of the numerous benefits of a healthy breakfast, Mrs. Nell McKinney, who served a meritorious thirty years with the cafeteria at Watertown Elementary School before retiring as its manager on June 2, 2004, chose to dedicate her time and energy to promoting "National School Breakfast Week" at the school by encouraging each student to eat breakfast; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary tenure, Mrs. Nell McKinney always strove to find a way to recommend the cafeteria to the students, faculty, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinney organized prizes to be given away during this promotion week as incentive for children to consume breakfast and increase efficiency at school. A few of the bigger prizes included a fifty-dollar savings bond given by a local bank, sports equipment and a boom box donated by Wal-Mart, and smaller prizes like bookmarks, pens, and shirts that were given to each student who participated; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nell McKinney had the help and support of Melody Turner, who is the director of the School Nutrition Program for the Wilson County School System; and

WHEREAS, under Nell McKinney's leadership, Lorelle Murphy also dedicated a commendable thirty years of service to the cafeteria and children in the Watertown area before retiring on June 2, 2004, always working with a cooperative and willing spirit; and

WHEREAS, both Nell McKinney and Lorelle Murphy are outstanding women, diligent workers, and are deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, the "Expanding Breakfast Award" is part of the "Best Practice Awards" program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture nationally, and the extraordinary Watertown Elementary School in Wilson County received this prestigious award at both the state level and for the entire Southeast eight-state region; and

WHEREAS, some of the required criteria for the "Expanding Breakfast Award" is based on the percentage of participation increase and dollars saved and generated by a school's breakfast program; and

WHEREAS, before Mrs. McKinney's promotion efforts, breakfast meal participation was averaging just over 33 percent and with, a la carte included, it was just under 35 percent; and

WHEREAS, because of Mrs. McKinney's remarkable efforts in endorsing and promoting "National School Breakfast Week" during March 8-12, 2004, Watertown Elementary School experienced a 26 percent increase in breakfast meal participation and continued this outstanding performance with a 15 percent increase in participation even after the awareness week ended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Mrs. Nell McKinney, Lorelle Murphy and the cafeteria staff at Watertown Elementary School upon their hard work and dedication in promoting "National School Breakfast Week" and upon receiving the prestigious "Expanding Breakfast Award" for their ingenious concept. We thank these enthusiastic professionals for striving to improve the academic and physical performance of the students at Watertown Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.